CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in the application.

Please amend claims 1, 5-7, 9, 10, 14-19 and 23-27 as shown below.

The following listing of claims 1-27 will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an operation of a switched-reluctance motor including a stator having a stator pole and a rotor having a rotor pole, said method comprising the steps of:

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aligning the rotor pole and the stator pole in response to a reception of an actuation command; and

subsequently cranking the rotor in a direction as dictated by the actuation command for a predetermined time period exclusive of any detection of a phase position of the rotor.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

rotating the rotor to a holding position upon an expiration of the predetermined time period.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

minimizing any current losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

minimizing any heating losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an alignment of a stator pole and a rotor pole of a switched-reluctance motor, said method comprising:

identifying a first phase of the motor as a target phase defining an initial position of the rotor pole that corresponds to the alignment of the stator pole and the rotor pole; and

~~exciting a second phase of the motor, the second phase adjacent the first phase; and~~

~~subsequently exciting the first phase of the motor~~

sequentially and exclusively exciting a second phase of the motor and the first phase of the motor to rotate the rotor pole to the initial position, the second phase being adjacent the first phase.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an alignment of a rotor pole of a switched-reluctance motor to a target position, said method comprising:

identifying the target position;

aligning a first phase of the motor adjacent the target position; and

subsequently and concurrently exciting a second phase of the motor and a third phase of the motor, the second phase and the third phase being remote from the target position.

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7. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a rotation of a rotor of a switched-reluctance motor in a desired direction, said method comprising:

sequentially exciting a plurality of phases of the switched-reluctance motor for one or more cycles exclusive of any detection of a phase position of the rotor whereby the rotor is cranked to rotate in the desired direction; and

rotating the rotor in the desired direction upon an expiration of the one or more cycles.

8. (Original) A method for controlling a minimization of any heat losses by a switched-reluctance motor having a rotor in a holding position, said method comprising:

determining the rotor is in the holding position; and

dithering the rotor exclusive of any detection of a phase position of the rotor upon the rotor in the holding position for a predetermined time period.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a minimization of any current losses by a switched-reluctance motor having a rotor in a holding position, said method comprising:

determining a motor torque corresponding to the holding position; and

selectively reducing an ampere level of a phase current corresponding to the holding position as a function of a determination of the motor torque.

10. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling an operation a switched-reluctance motor including a stator having a stator pole and a rotor having a rotor pole, said device comprising:

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means for aligning the rotor pole and the stator pole in response to a reception of an actuation command; and

means for subsequently cranking the rotor in a direction as dictated by the actuation command for a predetermined time period exclusive of any detection of a phase position of the rotor.

11. (Original) The device of claim 10, further comprising:

means for rotating the rotor to a holding position upon an expiration of the predetermined time period.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising:

means for minimizing any current losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

13. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising:

means for minimizing any heating losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

14. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling an alignment of a stator pole and a rotor pole of a switched-reluctance motor, said device comprising:

means for identifying a first phase of the motor as a target phase defining an initial position of the rotor pole that corresponds to the alignment of the stator pole and the rotor pole; and

~~means for exciting a second phase of the motor, the second phase adjacent the first phase; and~~

~~means for subsequently exciting the first phase of the motor~~

means for sequentially and exclusively exciting a second phase of the motor and the first phase of the motor to rotate the rotor pole to the initial position, the second phase being adjacent the first phase.

15. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling an alignment of a rotor pole of a switched-reluctance motor to a target position, said device comprising:

means for identifying the target position;

means for aligning a first phase of the motor adjacent the target position; and

means subsequently and concurrently exciting a second phase of the motor and a third phase of the motor, the second phase and the third phase being remote from the target position.

16. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling a rotation of a rotor of a switched-reluctance motor in a desired direction, said device comprising:

means for sequentially exciting a plurality of phases of the switched-reluctance motor for one or more cycles exclusive of any detection of a phase position of the rotor whereby the rotor is cranked to rotate in the desired direction; and

means for rotating the rotor to the holding position upon an expiration of the one or more cycles.

17. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling a minimization of any heat losses by a switched-reluctance motor having a rotor in a holding position, said device comprising:

means for determining the rotor is in the holding position; and

means for dithering the rotor exclusive of any detection of a phase position of the rotor upon the rotor being in the holding position for a predetermined time period.

18. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling a minimization of any current losses by a switched-reluctance motor having a rotor in a holding position, said device comprising:

means for determining a motor torque corresponding to the holding position; and

means for selectively reducing an ampere level of a phase current corresponding to the holding position as a function of a determination of the motor torque.

19. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including

a stator having a stator pole, and

a rotor having a rotor pole;

means for aligning ~~the~~ said rotor pole and ~~the~~ said stator pole in response to a reception of an actuation command; and

means for subsequently cranking ~~the~~ said rotor in a direction as dictated by the actuation command for a predetermined time period exclusive of any detection of a phase position of said rotor.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising:

means for rotating the rotor to a holding position upon an expiration of the predetermined time period.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

means for minimizing any current losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, further comprising:

means for minimizing any heating losses of the switched-reluctance motor when the rotor is in the holding position.

23. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including

a stator having a stator pole, and

a rotor having a rotor pole;

means for identifying a first phase of the motor as a target phase defining an initial position of the rotor pole that corresponds to the alignment of the stator pole and the rotor pole; and

~~means for exciting a second phase of the motor, the second phase adjacent the first phase; and~~

~~means for subsequently exciting the first phase of the motor~~

means for sequentially and exclusively exciting a second phase of said motor and the first phase of said motor to rotate said rotor pole to the initial position, the second phase being adjacent the first phase.

24. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including a rotor having a rotor pole;

means for identifying a target position of said rotor pole;

means for aligning a first phase of the motor adjacent the target position; and

means for subsequently and concurrently exciting a second phase of the motor and a third phase of the motor, the second phase and the third phase being remote from the target position.

25. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including a rotor;

means for sequentially exciting a plurality of phases of ~~the~~ said switched-reluctance motor for one or more cycles exclusive of any detection of a phase position of said rotor whereby ~~the~~ said rotor is cranked to rotate in the desired direction; and

means for rotating ~~the~~ said rotor to the holding position upon an expiration of the one or more cycles.

26. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including a rotor operable to be rotated to a holding position;

means for determining ~~the~~ said rotor is in the holding position; and

means for dithering ~~the~~ said rotor exclusive of any detection of a phase position of the rotor upon ~~the~~ said rotor being in the holding position for a predetermined time period.

27. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a switched-reluctance motor including a rotor operable to be rotated to a holding position;

means for determining a motor torque corresponding to the holding position; and

means for selectively reducing an ampere level of a phase current corresponding to the holding position as a function of a determination of the motor torque.